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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 55

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

MARY JANE M. GARCIA

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE ALARMING INCREASE OF VIOLENCE OCCURRING WITHIN THE HOMES OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, there was a thirty-six percent increase in nights of institutional shelter provided to the women and children of New Mexico necessitated by domestic violence in the past two years; and

WHEREAS, nonresident, or "out-patient", services to the same category of family members increased over twenty-nine percent for the same reasons in the same time frame; and

WHEREAS, the total clients served in that two-year period increased nearly eighteen percent to a total of twenty-six thousand five hundred separate clients served in fiscal year

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1 1996; and

2 WHEREAS, no appropriation increase has been sought by the  
3 administration for this serious and growing problem since fiscal  
4 year 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, the federal commitment this year is to double New  
6 Mexico's share to four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000); and

7 WHEREAS, recent state cutbacks and other budgetary changes  
8 produced an average ten percent reduction in funding for  
9 domestic violence centers, resulting in closing some satellite  
10 centers; and

11 WHEREAS, two thousand five hundred families will be  
12 deprived of domestic violence services if the threatened sixteen  
13 percent expenditure reduction is executed; and

14 WHEREAS, the current request for proposal process used to  
15 allocate funds is counter productive, draining resources needed  
16 to provide services while simultaneously preventing or  
17 inhibiting healthy agency planning;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health establish and  
20 provide staff support, with the cooperation of the children,  
21 youth and families department, to a task force on domestic  
22 violence for the purpose of developing an efficient base funding  
23 formula for allocation of funding for domestic violence  
24 programs; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include a

Underscored material = new  
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1 representative of the office of the attorney general, the  
2 children, youth and families department, the public health  
3 division of the department of health, the substance abuse  
4 division of the department of health, the maternal and child  
5 health bureau of the department of health, the advanced training  
6 bureau of the department of public safety and the crime victims  
7 reparation commission; representation from any other state  
8 agencies with responsibilities related to domestic violence  
9 issues; and representation from each domestic violence service  
10 center in the state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force elect a chairman  
12 from among its membership; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make a  
14 preliminary report to both the interim legislative health and  
15 human services and legislative finance committees at their  
16 October 1997 meetings and a final report with legislative  
17 recommendations at the committees' respective meetings in  
18 October 1998; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent  
20 to all affected agencies and organizations.